

Message

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ECOSWIRE

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Table of Contents

- [ECOS to Welcome 44 Member Agencies, 220 Attendees to Spring Meeting](#)
- [ITRC Hosts More Than 400 Participants at Annual Meeting in Boston](#)

- [U.S. EPA Announces Additional \\$6 Billion WIFIA Funding](#)
 - [U.S. EPA Adopts New Owner Air Audit Program for Oil & Gas Sector](#)
 - [ERIS Summarizes State Research Needs](#)
 - [State News You Can Use](#)
 - [Need-to-Know News in Waste & Chemicals and Emerging Contaminants](#)
 - [Upcoming Events](#)
-

There will be no ECOSWIRE next week due to the ECOS 2019 Spring Meeting. ECOS will resume publication on April 19.

ECOS to Welcome 44 Member Agencies, 220 Attendees to Spring Meeting

Download Meeting App with New Agenda Now!



ECOS looks forward to welcoming our new and returning members and federal, NGO, and industry partners to the Spring Meeting next week in Crystal City, Virginia. The full registration count currently stands at 220 attendees, including leaders from 44 state environmental agencies.

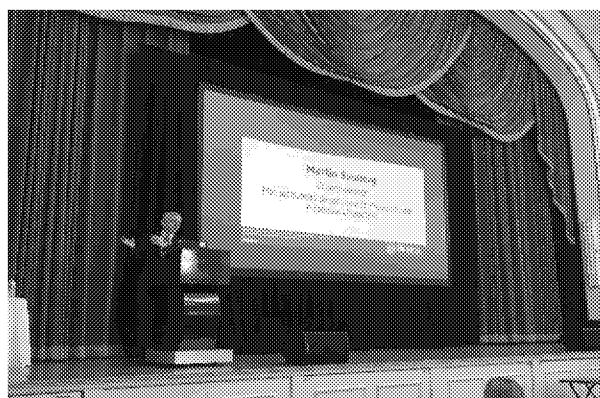
The first item of business is an **orientation for new and returning members this Sunday**, so be sure to attend to meet your counterparts from around the country.

In lieu of paper agendas, ECOS will again use the mobile meeting app Guidebook. The personalized app will also feature meeting materials, live polls, and more. Make sure to [download the app](#) to receive the most up-to-date information. If you already have it downloaded from the Fall Meeting, click on "Find Guides" and search for "2019 ECOS Spring Meeting." For questions about Guidebook, email [Megan Swanson](#). Don't worry if you are not a technology whiz, as ECOS staff will be available at the meeting to assist you with the app.

The meeting agenda and other information are also posted on the ECOS Spring Meeting webpage [here](#) should you choose to print your materials. Safe travels! [Parisien]

ITRC Hosts More Than 400 Participants at Annual Meeting in Boston

[Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council](#)



Massachusetts DEP Commissioner Martin Suuberg

Last week, the Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council (ITRC) welcomed more than 400 attendees to its four-day 2019 Annual Meeting in Boston. State regulators collaborated with federal, industry, academic, and stakeholder representatives on various ITRC projects:

- [1,4-Dioxane](#)
- [Implementing Advanced Site Characterization Tools](#)
- [Incremental Sampling Methodology Update](#)

- [Optimizing In Situ Remediation Performance & Injection Strategies](#)
- [PFAS](#)
- [Strategies for Preventing and Managing Harmful Cyanobacterial Blooms \(HCBs\)](#).

During a plenary session, Executive Director Don Welsh spoke about his long history with ECOS and ITRC, recognizing how ITRC members “look forward [to] the opportunity to wrestle with tough environmental issues.” Later, Maureen Sullivan, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Environment, and Martin Suuberg, Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, addressed their priorities.

U.S. EPA Announces Additional \$6 Billion WIFIA Funding

Last week, U.S. EPA announced the availability of funding to provide an estimated \$6 billion in Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loans in 2019. In combination with leveraging private capital and other funding sources, this amount could support \$12 billion in water infrastructure projects.

This round of funding will prioritize construction-ready projects in three areas: water reuse and recycling; reducing exposure to lead and addressing emerging contaminants in drinking water systems; and updating aging infrastructure. EPA will accept letters of interest from prospective borrowers for 90 days after publication in the *Federal Register*. Through this competitive process, EPA will select projects that it intends to fund and invite them to continue the application process.

More information about WIFIA and this funding announcement is available [here](#). [Piper]

U.S. EPA Adopts New Owner Air Audit Program for Oil & Gas Sector

[Shale Gas Caucus](#)

On March 29, U.S. EPA finalized a New Owner Clean Air Act (CAA) Audit Program tailored for the oil and natural gas sector. The program encourages new owners to voluntarily find, correct, and self-disclose CAA violations. As discussed over the past year with the ECOS Shale Gas Caucus, EPA believes that the program will accelerate the rate at which

participating operators of newly acquired facilities identify and correct emissions violations.

Patrick Traylor, Deputy Assistant Administrator for EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, will present the audit program at the ECOS Spring Meeting during the Shale Gas Caucus discussion on April 8.

For more information, see [here](#). [Parisien]

ERIS Summarizes State Research Needs

Environmental Research Institute of the States

This week, ERIS released its 2018 summary of state environmental agency research needs. The short document highlights challenges for which ECOS members and their staff think more science would be helpful. This is the third biennial ERIS survey, and the results will help U.S. EPA's Office of Research and Development to define future research and understand state issues.

See the survey [here](#). [Longworth]



State News You Can Use

[Texas Releases Story Map Tool for Fire Data](#)

Iowa Funds Innovative Regional and Local Clean Water
Education Campaigns

Colorado Bill Overhauls State Oil and Gas Regulations

New Hampshire Features Staff in Video on Lean

West Virginia Leads by Example with Litter Cleanup

Need-to-Know News in Waste & Chemicals and Emerging Contaminants

U.S. EPA Recognizes Accomplishments at Missouri and Oklahoma Superfund Sites

Area of Focus: Land and Waste

On April 1, U.S. EPA announced significant accomplishments at two Superfund sites on the Administrator's Emphasis List of Superfund Sites Targeted for Immediate, Intense Action.

After achieving critical short-term milestones, the Madison County Anschutz Mine in Fredericktown, Missouri and Tar Creek in Ottawa County, Oklahoma achieved removal from the list. In addition, EPA added one site – Olin Chemical in Wilmington, Massachusetts – to facilitate cleanup and redevelopment activities.

The updates leave 15 Superfund sites on the list. In total, 13 sites have been removed from the Administrator's Emphasis List since December 2017 because the short-term milestones were achieved. [Parisien]

U.S. EPA Proposes Changes to HazWaste Rules on Ignitable Liquids Determinations

Area of Focus: Land and Waste

U.S. EPA is proposing changes to the hazardous waste regulations surrounding how the characteristic of ignitability is determined under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. The proposal will also allow the use of non-mercury thermometers in a variety of EPA's analytical methods that currently require mercury thermometers.

These proposed amendments, when finalized, will allow for the use of certain equipment and techniques for making ignitability determinations for waste. In addition, these changes reportedly will reduce potential mercury exposures to humans and the environment by reducing the overall use of mercury-containing products.

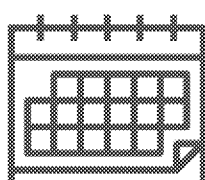
Comments are due **June 3**. For more information, click [here](#). [Parisien]

U.S. EPA Issues Status Report on Childhood Lead Exposure

Area of Focus: Chemicals and Emerging Contaminants

U.S. EPA this week released its *Implementation Status Report for EPA Actions under the December 2018 Federal Action Plan to Reduce Childhood Lead Exposures and Associated Health Impacts*. The report tracks EPA activities conducted in support of the *Lead Action Plan* and highlights areas in which the agency is collaborating with federal partners to meet its goals. EPA plans to post periodically updates and accomplishments as it works to implement the Action Plan.

For the report and background on the efforts, see [here](#). [Longworth]



Upcoming Events

ECOS

ECOS on U.S. EPA FY 20-21 National Program Guidance

ECOS has set dates for a series of calls for state officials, association staff, and U.S. EPA program offices on the agency's Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021 National Program Guidances (formerly known as National Program Manager Guidances). On the calls, senior U.S. EPA program staff will review the various goals and measures in the two-year strategic planning documents, explain major changes from the FY18-19 cycle, and give states an opportunity to ask questions.

On April 1, U.S. EPA will release the draft guidance documents on its [website](#), beginning a 30-day public comment period. The timing of ECOS' NPG calls is as follows:

- Office of Water: **April 16 at 2-3 p.m. Eastern**
- Office of Air and Radiation: **April 24 at 2-3 p.m. Eastern**
- Office of Land and Emergency Management: **April 24 at 3-4 p.m. Eastern**
- Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance: **April 25 at 1:30-2:30 p.m. Eastern**

Please contact [Owen McAleer](#) of ECOS with any questions. [McAleer]

ECOS on Drinking Water Financing

On April 17 at 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern, ECOS will host a webinar to highlight three states' innovative uses of Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (DWSRF) to assist small water systems. The three featured programs help small and financially disadvantaged systems finance costly drinking water infrastructure projects and remain in compliance with state health regulations.

Presentations cover Alaska's Micro Loan Program, Connecticut's Emergency Power Generator and Small Loan Programs, and Oregon's Sustainable Infrastructure Planning Projects Program.

See [this flyer](#) for more information on the presentations. The webinar is the product of a research project to document state innovations in drinking water infrastructure financing. ECOS is working under a cooperative agreement with U.S. EPA's Office of Water.

Register [here](#) for the webinar, or contact [Megan Swanson](#) of ECOS for more information. [Swanson]

Other

U.S. EPA on ECHO

Join U.S. EPA for its next Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO) webinar on **April 9 at 1:30-2:30 p.m. Eastern**. This webinar offers a behind-the-scenes look at ECHO data. EPA will demonstrate some of the capabilities of ECHO to answer questions such as:

- From which EPA program systems does ECHO retrieve data?
- How frequently are the data updated, and how do I make corrections?
- How can I download ECHO data?
- What are ECHO web services?

Register [here](#) to reserve save your spot. If you can't make it, you can access ECHO [tutorials](#) and [recorded webinars](#) at any time. [Piper]

U.S. EPA on Air Sensors

U.S. EPA will hold its monthly tools and resources webinar on **April 17 at 3-4 p.m. Eastern**. The call will focus on advancing the development and evaluation of low-cost air quality sensors and air sensor technology.

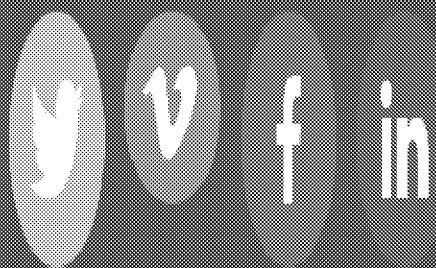
To register, see [here](#). For information on EPA's Air Sensor Toolbox, see [here](#).
[Longworth]

DoD on Cleanups

The 2019 Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) Forum will be held on **May 7-9 in St. Louis, Missouri**. The Forum is designed to facilitate information-sharing relative to the DoD cleanup program, with a focus on active and Base Realignment and Closure installations. The Forum will allow DoD and its regulatory partners at the senior cleanup manager level to discuss cleanup issues and initiatives, and to exchange views and lessons learned. These discussions will enhance communications and strengthen partnerships to enable DoD to conduct and complete cleanup effectively. The forum's plenary session will be led by Maureen Sullivan, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Environment. View the agenda [here](#).

Registration for state representatives is open on a first-come, first-served basis. State attendees can use DSMOA funds to cover their attendance. After coordinating internally and with your DoD DSMOA point of contact to determine who from the state will be requesting DSMOA funding, you can register [here](#) using the pre-registration code **S123**. State attendees not requesting DSMOA funding can register [here](#) using the pre-registration code **X123**

Please contact [Molly Olonoff](#) for more information. [Olonoff]



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